



Study Permit Refusals

What does an immigration officer look for in a study permit application?

In order to be eligible to study in Canada on a study permit, prospective international students must:

- have been accepted by a [designated learning institution](#) in Canada;
- prove that they have enough money to pay for:
 - tuition fees,
 - living expenses for themselves and any family members who come with them to Canada, and
 - return transportation for themselves and any family members who come with them to Canada;
- be a law-abiding citizen with no criminal record and not be a risk to the security of Canada. A police certificate (or certificates) may be required;
- be in good health and willing to complete a medical examination, if necessary; and
- satisfy an immigration officer that they will leave Canada at the end of the authorized stay.

If your study permit is refused, IRCC will provide a letter outlining the reasons for the refusal. Some common reasons for refusals include:

- not convincing the immigration officer that your main intent of coming to Canada is to study (called “purpose of study”)
- not convincing the immigration officer that you will leave Canada after you complete your program
- insufficient proof of financial support for yourself and any family members

If your study permit application is rejected, you can consider the reasons for the refusal and prepare a new application.

Always include a letter of explanation (“*Additional Client Information*” under “**Optional Documents**” in the Document Checklist) to help the visa officer understand your application. Use this letter to express:

- your reasons for studying – outline your study plan
- your means of financial support
- your plans for after you finish your program

Visa officers can only assess what is in the application. They will not make assumptions. The applicant is responsible for providing all the necessary information.

You can also request the GCMS notes under the Access to Information Act supporting the reason for refusal. These notes will inform the applicant of the details of study permit rejection reasons. So, applicants would know how best to address the refusal. Someone

from Canada (any status) needs to apply for this on behalf of you.

Visit [how to make a request under the Access to Information Act](#).

Common reasons for refusal, and how to avoid them

“Not satisfied that you will leave Canada at the end of your stay.”

A study permit is a temporary visa, which means that it has a validity period and an expiration date. In your study permit application, you need to convince the visa officer that you understand the difference between coming to Canada as a temporary resident, and coming to Canada with the intent to stay permanently.

This does not mean that you cannot apply to extend your study permit, or stay permanently, after you arrive in Canada.

The visa officer must believe that you will not stay in the country illegally after your permit expires. Usually, this is a problem if you don't demonstrate that you have good reasons to want to return home, or if there are situations in your home country that would make it difficult to return.

How to address this situation

The best way to address this concern is in a letter of explanation. Use this letter to explain clearly what your plans are for returning home, including work/family obligations, and plans for how you will use your new skills and education in your professional life. Finances are always a strong support – if you have a job or business to return to, this is more convincing. If you can get a letter from your employer, or indicate a date that you will return to work, this will help your application. If you are not employed, provide a plan for how you will use your new diploma or degree to start a job.

“Demonstrating ties to home country”

This also helps convince the visa officer that you have a reason to return home. People who have responsibilities in their home country must return home to care for these, and obviously can't stay forever in a new country. Consider all of your connections to your home country and the evidence that proves it.

How to address this situation

The best connections to your home are things like property and employment. Include all information about any assets that require your attention. If you don't have any property, an apartment lease or car loan can be assets.

There are other connections to your home country that are also proof you will return home. Are you an active member in a community organization? Do you care for aged family members, or are you providing family support in any way? Show evidence of your responsibilities, role and duties.

“Not enough financial support for your stay”

When you submit a study permit application, you need to demonstrate that you have enough money to pay for the trip to Canada, pay your tuition fees, and support yourself and any accompanying family members while you’re studying. IRCC does not want you to come to Canada and rely on government support while you are studying. You must prove that you can pay rent and buy groceries in addition to paying your tuition fees.

How to address this situation

Carefully review the financial documents you submitted with your application. Provide the conversion into CAD, if it’s not clear in your bank statements. Usually 6 months of statements is sufficient.

You can prove your funds in different ways, such as:

- proof of a Canadian bank account in your name, if you have transferred money to Canada
- proof of a student/education loan from a bank
- your bank statements for the past four months
- a bank draft that can be converted to Canadian dollars
- proof you paid tuition and housing fees
- a letter from the person or school giving you money or
- proof of funding paid from within Canada, if you have a scholarship or are in a Canadian-funded educational program

How your financial support is assessed

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/get-documents.html#doc3>

You are required to demonstrate financial sufficiency for **only the first year of studies**, regardless of the length of your program. However, it should be clear that the source of funds will still be available after one year.

“Base” amounts required

Student	\$10,000 for twelve-month period, prorated at \$833 per month, plus cost of tuition.
Spouse/common-law partner/first family member	\$4,000 for twelve-month period prorated at \$333 per month.
Dependent	\$3,000 for twelve-month period per dependent child of any age,

child/subsequent family member	prorated at \$255 per month
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“Purpose of study”

Sometimes officers will question why you chose your program of study, and whether your intent to attend this program is “bona fide”, or whether you are just trying different ways to come to Canada.

This can happen if the program of study is in a different field from your background, or if it seems it won’t provide you with better credentials than you already have. For example, if you have a Master’s degree and several years of professional experience, then why would you leave your job, and travel to Canada to do a 1- or 2-year program?

How to address this situation

A letter of explanation is essential here – identify the exact aspects of the program that will be of benefit to you professionally, and **explain** how this program will further your career goals and improve your options for employment. Be clear and specific – imagine the officer doesn’t believe you, and you need to convince that person!

Positive and Negative Factors

There are certain things a visa officer will look for in an application:

Positive factors

These can be positive factors assessing an application:

- country of usual residence is politically stable
- stable, well-paid employment (proof provided by employer)
- spouse and/or children not accompanying applicant
- good financial situation
- previous trips to Canada
- owning property in country of usual residence

Negative Factors

These can be negative aspects in assessing an application:

- chances of successful establishment in country of usual residence are poor
- poor financial situation
- low-paid employment, or unemployed
- no previous travel
- has previously been denied a visitor visa or study permit
- has been denied a visa by another country

Remember, it is the job of an immigration officer to prevent people from entering and staying in Canada without following the regulations. If there is any indication that you may be using your study permit simply as a way to come to Canada for other purposes, it may be refused.

If you decide to stay longer in Canada after you arrive, that's OK! – the Canadian government even encourages this. Once you have been approved to study in Canada, you can apply to extend your study permit, or apply for a work permit when you complete your program without having to leave the country. You can also apply for PR, if you meet the criteria. However, those plans should be separate from this application.

You can visit IRCC's Help Centre for more information on your application:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=023&top=4>